

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT : Developmental Electronic Information Display Systems within the Intelligence Community

If the many efforts now underway are brought to fruition, the Intelligence Community will be operating numerous separate secure, "real-time" video exchange systems in a few years. Modern computer and electronic display technology, if not applied on a community-wide coordinated basis to problems within the Intelligence Community, could result in extensive waste of resources and actually deter efficient and effective operations.

To be specific, the member agencies of the Intelligence Community, in their many and individual efforts to solve such problems as you yourself have identified,¹ are proceeding to design and build automated systems for the exchange of data and graphic presentation of images. There is one or more for each type of intelligence source. Following is a sample of the systems to which I refer:

<u>Electronic CRT Display System/ Effort</u>	<u>Sponsoring Agency</u>
IDHS (Intelligence Data Handling System)	DIA
IRDHS (Imagery Related Data Handling System)	DIA
ITC (Imagery Transmission Committee)	DIA
COINS (Community On-Line Intelligence System)	ASD(I)
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SSRS (SIGINT Surveillance & Reporting System)	NSA
Intelligence Data Exchange/TETRAHEDRON	NSA/IHC
INVIDEX (Intelligence Video Exchange)	NPIC
HSC (Human Source Committee)	State
VTVS (Video Transmission and Viewing System)	CIA

¹ "Many of our principal national level consumers are not being well served by our current intelligence efforts. We must devise methods for getting meaningful evaluations of current intelligence items to key consumers as events occur and as intelligence comment is required by the user," W.E. Colby, "Perspectives of the Intelligence Environment," August 1973.

These systems have several features in common. All are being designed to handle classified intelligence information and to provide essentially the same kind of service; namely, "real-time" video presentation of alphanumeric and graphic data and imagery. They have another feature in common. Each will cost several million dollars to acquire.

Unfortunately, these systems also have many features which distinguish one from the other. Each system is being designed primarily to display a particular intelligence input or group of related inputs. Each system will have its own file structure, retrieval language and data base management system. Access to these systems will be made more difficult due to the large variety of classifications and categories. If these programs are permitted to continue on their present course, within a few years our intelligence and warning centers will be populated with a variety of different CRT terminals. The intelligence analyst will be surrounded by scopes. He will have to be a walking library of retrieval languages. How will he synthesize and assimilate the variety of intelligence inputs, much less assist in the decision-making process? Inefficiency will border on ineffectiveness.

The solution to this potential dilemma is, of course, not to stop these programs and return to pencil and paper. We must use computers and CRT's. Our future depends on them. What we should do is redirect these vigorous, individually creative efforts into a coherent, community-wide program. This issue must be elevated above the level of individual agency concern. The DCI and the USIB should insist on a coordinated approach to the development of these video exchange systems.

I recommend that you task the Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) of the USIB in the person of its Acting Chairman, to:

STAT

Review the problem thoroughly but quickly;

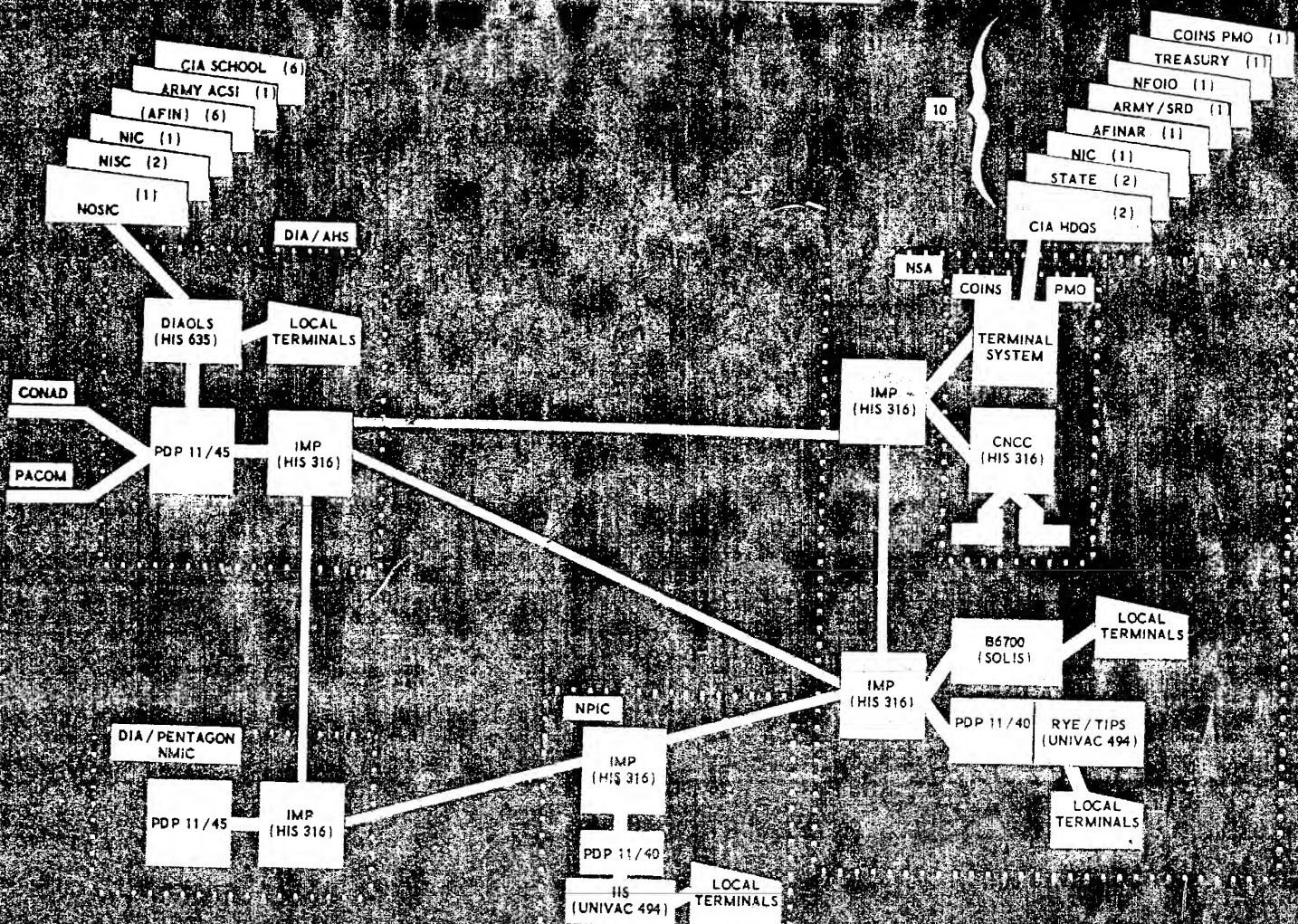
Produce a study documenting these efforts and their costs and recommending specifically how to funnel these diverse efforts into a coherent system for the benefit of the Intelligence Community as a whole; and

Authoritatively coordinate the implementation of that single, coherent system.

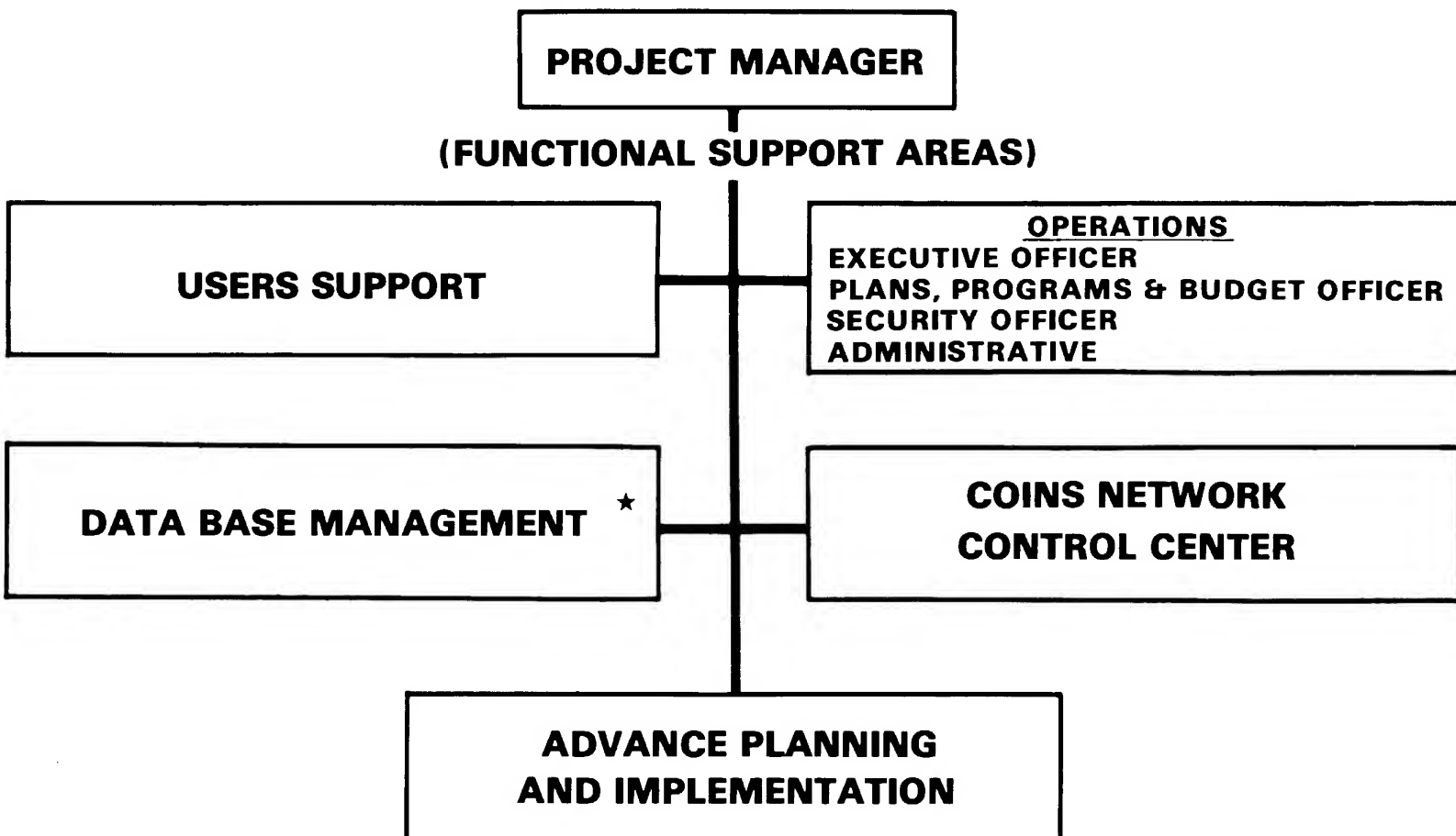
Such a standardized, coordinated effort will save many millions of dollars. I urge your personal attention to this important issue.

Maj. Gen. Daniel O. Graham, USA
D/DCI/IC

COINS II



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